

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for assembling an exhaust nozzle assembly, said method comprising:

positioning a lower structure within a substantially rectangular nozzle assembly;

coupling a ramp flap to the lower structure; and

coupling an outer flap to the nozzle assembly such that movement of the ramp flap and the outer flap adjusts the throat area of the nozzle assembly.

2. A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising coupling a flade flap to the lower structure such that the flade flap adjusts a flade throat area of the nozzle assembly.

3. A method in accordance with Claim 2 further comprising:

hingedly coupling the ramp flap to the lower structure; and

hingedly coupling the flade flap to the lower structure.

4. A method in accordance with Claim 2 further comprising:

positioning a plurality of actuators within a flade passage such that movement of at least one of the ramp flap and the flade flap is controlled by the actuators.

5. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said coupling an outer flap to the nozzle assembly comprises:

coupling the outer flap to the nozzle assembly using a hinge; and

coupling an actuator to the outer flap such that movement of the outer flap is controlled by the actuator.

6. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said coupling an outer flap to the nozzle assembly comprises slidably coupling the outer flap to the nozzle assembly using a plurality of tracks coupled to the nozzle assembly.

7. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said coupling a ramp flap to the lower structure comprises coupling a ramp flap including a flade flap formed unitarily with the lower structure.

8. An exhaust nozzle assembly comprising:

a lower structure positioned within a substantially rectangular nozzle assembly;

a ramp flap coupled to said lower structure; and

an outer flap coupled to said nozzle assembly, at least one of said ramp flap and said outer flap configured to adjust a throat area of said nozzle assembly.

9. An exhaust nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 8 further comprising a flade flap coupled to said lower structure, said flade flap configured to define a flade throat area of said nozzle assembly.

10. An exhaust nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 9 further comprising a hinge configured to rotatably couple said ramp flap and said flade flap to said lower structure.

11. An exhaust nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 9 further comprising a plurality of actuators positioned within a flade passage, said actuators configured to move at least one of said ramp flap and said flade flap.

12. An exhaust nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 8 further comprising:

a hinge configured to couple said outer flap to said nozzle assembly;
and

an actuator coupled to said outer flap such that movement of said outer flap is controlled by said actuator.

13. An exhaust nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 8 further comprising a plurality of tracks coupled to said nozzle assembly, said tracks configured to slidably couple said outer flap to said nozzle assembly.

14. An exhaust nozzle assembly in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said ramp flap is formed unitarily with a flade flap.

15. A gas turbine engine comprising:

a flade rotor producing a flade discharge airflow; and

a substantially rectangular flade nozzle assembly configured to receive said flade discharge airflow, said flade nozzle comprising:

a lower structure positioned within said flade nozzle assembly;

a ramp flap coupled to said lower structure; and

an outer flap coupled to said nozzle assembly, at least one of said ramp flap and said outer flap configured to adjust a throat area of said flade nozzle assembly.

16. A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 15 further comprising a flade flap coupled to said lower structure, said flade flap configured to define a flade throat area of said flade nozzle assembly.

17. A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 16 further comprising a hinge configured to rotatably couple said ramp flap and said flade flap to said lower structure.

18. A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 15 further comprising a plurality of tracks coupled to said flade nozzle assembly, said tracks configured to slidably couple said outer flap to said flade nozzle assembly.

19. A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 15 further comprising a ramp flap formed unitarily with a flade flap.